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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 11, 2005

BRITISH NATIONAL SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR BOMB THREAT TO AIRLINE

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan and F.B.I. Special Agent-In-Charge Jack Eckenrode today announced that U.S. District Court Judge Michael M. Baylson sentenced ILYAS SAVAS to 18 months imprisonment for phoning in a bomb threat in June that cancelled one American Airlines flight and delayed another. Judge Baylson also ordered SAVAS to pay \$9,075 in restitution to American Airlines, to pay the passengers aboard the cancelled flight \$100 each for their inconvenience, and to write a letter of apology to each passenger. In September, SAVAS pled guilty to conspiracy to convey false information and threats about carrying an explosive device on an airplane and conveying false information and threats about carrying an explosive device on an airplane. He remains in federal custody.

On June 2, 2004, at approximately 5:40 a.m., a telephone call was received at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Essington, Pennsylvania. A male voice told the hotel clerk that a bomb may be aboard American Airlines flight no. 4543, scheduled to leave Philadelphia at 6:30 a.m. for Boston, Massachusetts. In addition, the male voice indicated that a second bomb may be aboard American Airlines flight no. 156, scheduled to leave at 9:00 a.m. from Boston to Heathrow Airport, London, England. As a result of the threats, flight 4543 was stopped on the runway and all passengers forced to deplane. Flight 156 was delayed as a result of the threats.

That same day, co-defendant HATICE CEYLAN told members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force that she and ILYAS SAVAS agreed to have SAVAS phone in the above referenced bomb threats in order to delay the above referenced flights and allow her to retrieve her passport. CEYLAN had purchased a non-refundable ticket on American Airlines flights 4543 and 156 and had been scheduled to fly to Boston, Massachusetts and then England on June 2, 2004. After purchasing the ticket, she realized that she did not have her passport and that it might have been locked inside an inaccessible building.

SAVAS also told members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force that he and HATICE CEYLAN agreed to have SAVAS phone in the above referenced bomb threats in order to delay the above referenced flights and allow her to retrieve her passport. SAVAS made the calls to the Embassy Suites Hotel from England and then subsequently traveled to the Philadelphia area to meet CEYLAN. He and CEYLAN were arrested as they attempted to redeem the unused tickets from June 2, 2004 and obtain a refund or a new ticket to England.

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CEYLAN is scheduled to be sentenced February 2nd. This case was investigated by the Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Federal Air Marshal Service and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Denise S. Wolf.

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